

OKOLONA MESSENGER.

Democratic in Principle, But Independent in Thought and Action. Devoted to Honesty, Truth and Good Government.

VOL. 39

OKOLONA, MISSISSIPPI, THURSDAY, MARCH 30, 1911

NO. 13

COL. JAS. GORDON

Speech Delivered at Atlanta, Ga., Before the Southern Commercial Congress

Gentlemen of the Southern Commercial Congress

Sixty years ago I passed through Atlanta on a stage coach, and was told that the site on which the village was being built had changed ownership on the result of a quarter race. Ten years later I passed through again on a railway train, but instead of the ring of the saw and hammer, I heard the war notes of bugle blast, and beating drums. With a new generation of peace and the prosperity that always follows with its train of commerce we behold to-day a beautiful city and a happy people. The occasion of this meeting is the making of a new page in history of our great commonwealth. And it is well to correct the mistakes of history in what is being written of the generation that has passed away. The old Southerner has been represented as an indolent pleasure loving individual dwelling in a lotus eating land whose people were a hospitable cheerful folk endowed with plenty, caring for nothing save their own pleasures, looking on the business world with an impassive if not a disapproving eye. This is a vile slander upon a brave chivalrous race, who were proud without arrogance, holding honor above price, and so stout of heart, that when the fortunes of war in its besom of destruction laid waste their lands, shattered their ideals, though stricken with wounds and heart burnings, they were not humiliated, they did not repine or weep over lost treasures, but went manfully to work to restore them. They were an agricultural people, and it must be remembered that from the resources of the South came the wealth of the Nation. They lived on their farms, consequently they did not build cities as rapidly as the people who built factories, and mills, and were enriched by their products and commercial enterprises. It is a mistake to say they liked idleness. From temperate climes have sprung the greatest warriors, statesmen and law givers, poets and philosophers of the world. And a land that has produced a Washington, a Lee, Stonewall Jackson, Clay, Calhoun and a Lamar, a Georgia product and Mississippi Developed Statesman, And Kentucky boasts of being the mother of a Lincoln and a Davis. And the men who were able to endure the hardships of war as did the soldiers of the South in every war from Yorktown to Mexico, and the lovers of the cause are worthy a place in history among its grandest heroes, and the loyalty with which the Confederate soldier kept his faith and his honor in adhering to the pledge when he received his parole entitles him to a bright place on the page of history that will ever remain an unfading immortal to his memory. If the South progressed slowly after the war it must be remembered the conditions by which he was envired. He began the battle of life anew, confronted by a race problem sufficient to appall the stoutest heart. I might ask why our nation has only in a few years past found it necessary to build a navy. It was because we were willing to let foreign vessels monopolize our carrying trade and did not realize our weakness, until we became a world power, and now we are moving slowly but steadily to repair our error and in time we will have a merchant marine commensurate with our necessities, and when the Panama Canal is completed we will realize the importance of opening our waterways to commerce, and how necessary it will be

to have our Southern coast protected. These improvements will bring our people closer together. This meeting is the making of a new page in the history of our country. In the last half century there has been the greatest advancement in commerce by means of scientific inventions that have curtailed the earth's surface and made neighbors of people thousand of miles apart. Every cable that rests upon the coral strand of distant lands, speaks with tongues of fire of peace and good will to the nations of the earth.

Every sail that flutters in the breeze, every iron keel that splits the ocean waves, every railroad track that crosses over states is a mighty messenger of commerce. We have the greatest country in the world blessed with more natural resources of wealth than any other nation. We have the most perfect system of self government in the world. Standing here as the representative of the Old South I am the rear guard of the grand army.

Most of my comrades have passed over the dark river, where they rest under the shade of the trees. I feel it a great privilege to speak here to the American nation, and especially to the sons and grand-sons of the two great armies who once contended on ensanguined fields, and are now one people. The evil days are past. The effulgent beams of this morning sun light upon the blushing dawn of a new day. An epoch in history, the beginning of a new Era. Mason's and Dixon's line will be obliterated from the map of the United States and its evil history blotted from memory.

Sectionalism is a curse and a calamity. We are now one nation of re-united states. Upon you young men upon whose shoulders must fall the mantle of honor worn by your fathers, with the burden of its trusts and responsibilities, we can only say as the dying gladiator who lay upon the sands of the arena, "The dying salute you" these precepts in your memory bear, "To thine own self be true and it must follow as the night the day thou canst not then be false to any man." Let all the ends thou aimest at be thy country's God's and truth, some of you will lead in the arts of industry, some will fill the legislative halls of the state and nation, what our country needs are not soliticians, but statesmen. The representative of a people in the halls of legislation either of state or federal who has not the courage of his convictions, who will sacrifice principle for office is unworthy of respect or confidence. The politician who waits to see which way public sentiment tends, and follows the current for favor against his convictions is unfit for leadership and will most likely find himself stranded among breakers at the turn of the tide.

The duty of a citizen is to look to the best interest of the people. He should encourage science and art in all the industries of peace, and the advancement of general prosperity. The most contemptible character is the demagogue, and the biggest fool in politics is the man who fights capital and prevents capitalists from investments that would set money in circulation. This congress, my countrymen means peace and prosperity, and as a representative of the people of the land we love, clinging with a tenacity that only death can sever the sacred memories of its past its glories and its ideals. I am forced to recognize the change of time and conditions, and to advise you my brethren to teach your sons to adapt themselves

MAJ. PERKINS

Goes Down to Hear Uncle Mose Johnson Preach and Reports it for The Messenger

Mr. Editor:—I went down to hear Uncle Mose Johnson preach a few nights ago, and took a seat, just outside the window where I could see him and he couldn't see me. Uncle Mose is one of the old fashioned "befo de war niggers" with plenty of good horse sense, but not very elegant in style. After the congregation had become settled and everything was ready he arose, hymn book in hand, and viewing the congregation with a critic's eye.

And trying to pass it's imperfections by, he proceeded to read his hymn. He said:

De lite is bad, my eyes is dim I scarce can see ter read his him.

Mistaking it for part of the song, they sung it off in good style. He rolled the white of his eyes at them and said:

I didn't mean dat for to sing at all I beleve de devil's in you all.

And they sung that. Then he said: What fools you niggers be Singin' all dis kase I can't see

And they sung that. He solemnly laid the book down and pulled out his red cotton handkercher to wipe his spex and as his thumb ran through the place where the glass ought to be, he said:

"Fo de Lawd, dat debilish boy, Jo, er mine, has punched de ize out er my spex, an' now I can't see ter read my tex, but you will find it in de one ide chapter of de two ide John, an' it reads dis way: 'Work out your own salvation wid fear an' trimlin'.' Dat means a good deal of fear an' er heap er trimlin'." Tain't no lie job an' don't take no foolishness. In de fust place you wants ter no why? Kase de debil is rite in behin' you wid er sharp stick. In de secon' place you wants to no how? Well, you jes do de bes' you can wid de lite you batter go by, an' you will come out all rite. No man can't beat his bes', an' dat's all dat is 'quired of ennybody.

"Den you wants ter no when? Well, if you don't no dat after what I iz already tole you, de debil won't get no mo dan what's cumin' ter him if he does git yer. It would take three tizes ter do justice ter dis crowd, one fer dem what sho gwine ter be saved, an' dat's two ol' sisters so ol' da can't do no mo' devilment, an' one fer dem what sings loud an' prays long on

to the exigences of those changes and with loyalty and honor to the principles that actuated your sires regardless of self, work to maintain the honor of our common country. This is our birthright, this is your country no pen-up Utica confines its boundaries. From the aurora borealis that lights its Alaskan snows, to the verdant isles where eternal sunshine gilds the golden fruits of the tropics, with the sheen of its splendor surpassing the beauties of Hesperides. From the occident to the orient wherever floats the flag of our fathers you will find the home of an American citizen. One great interest binds us all in a reunited brotherhood. Thank God we are one people. The capitol of our nation is our fathers' house. In it there should be no hates, we are at peace with all mankind, and fulfilling the divine commands of our blessed Savior, "that ye love one another" and to you my beloved country women the most beautiful and loveliest of God's creation I appeal to you fair daughters of heroic race, especially to the mothers of a generation who are to inherit this grand estate. I appeal to

Sunday an' does all kinds of rascality in de week, an' another fer de po sinner dat is har hung an' breeze shucken over de yawnin' gulf of dark despair. But de one I haz already tuk fits everybody; an' de fust word is Work, de very thing you all is tryin' ter keep frum doin'. But it does mo' to keep folks outer devilment dan ennything else. Work is a cuss put on mankind fer not doin' like he wuz tole ter do. You know Adam wuz fust sot up in er fine garden wid mufin ter do, an' de debil jumped on him the nex' monin' befo brekfust an' he by his guilty fall played de devil with us all.

Ef he had been makin' er crap wid de grass pushin' on every side he would have sed, 'Good mornin', Mr. Devil; call roun' when de crap is laid by. I ain't got no time ter fool wid er book agent now.

"Ef Eve had er bin cookin', churnin' an' washin' Adam's close, she never would er toch dat apple.

"Now, wake up Bro. Webster Turner, over in de corner dar, fer I'm gwine ter make er pint right here. De Lawd seed what a mistake it wuz to make man for he wuz lazy an' wouldn't mind; so he blessed um out an' put um to work, an' he ain't never had no use fer er lazy man fum dat day to dis. It's de damnin' sin er de world, kase de lazy idle man is de one what kicks up de mos' racket.

"Now dere is plenty salvation ter go roun', so everybody can get what's cumin' to um. But de Bible sez you haz ter work fer it. You can't draw it all at once an' den set down an' lib often it, but you can get all it takes to run every day, providin' you work it out. Now, if you gits los' in de shuffle it's your own fault. I hearn a preacher say once dat we wuz all 'lected to be saved er lost befo' we wuz born. Well, I can take de Bible an' prove bofe sides er dat question, an' den I ain't no better off dan I wuz at fust. So when de Bible conflicts wid itself I jes takes up the most common sense view of de case. Who ever hearn of anybody bein' 'lected, dout fust bein er canadet? An' how you gwine to be er canadet befo you is born? Den what's de use of havin' er 'lection when dere ain't nobody to vote but de Lawd, an' his min' already made up. You know as well as I do wen er nigger gets ter foolin' wid er 'lection he always gets counted out.

"Leime tell you sumthin', ef you for the future of our country. It is the early lesson taught in the sacred sanctuary of a home that makes the destiny of a nation. Our glory began with the mothers of the revolution, in the inheritance of their patriotism is the safety valve that prevents destruction to the ship of state. Arouse the youth to emulate their fathers in the arts of industry, and with the whirl of spindles and the anvil choras will be heard a song of praise to God from whom all blessings flow. To you veterans of the federal al army and your sons and daughters I bring a message of peace and love from my comrades whose chivalry and courage you admired half a century ago, and in their name I extend to you the hand of good fellowship and brotherly love, which I feel sure you will not refuse to accept in the spirit in which it is offered. Love is always the harbinger of peace and prosperity. Love drives out hate, for hate cannot exist where love is. From henceforth we are one nation, one people, one heart, one mind, one hope, one destiny. And may ever be our Union 'one and inseparable now and forever."

gets ter foolin' wid all dese natty pints, de devil will put you in his scrap pile sho's yer born. Don't fergit dat. Now, all men likes to argy, an' dat's why dese conflicts is put in de Bible; it makes us study de word. Et it wuz all writ strate as er gun barrel an you could undrstand it jes like you could er book what er man writ, you would drop it like er hot tater an' not bother yer head with it, an' dat's ernother pint made.

"Dese har splittin' pints dat would take a Filadelfy lawyer dat had been rased on razor soup to settle, ain't no 'lig'on fer a nigger. Sumthin' dat a wayfarin' fool, ef he wuz runnin', kin read, is de kind to save er world wid, an' dat's ernother pint made in dis discourse. De main thing is ter do rite. Arrangements has all been made so you may no when you is on de rite track, an' when you ain't. Every man an' woman, too, has a little kermometer put in his brain, called consunts, to tell you rite frum rong. Ef you ain't got none, den you ain't 'sponsible, and ought to be turned out wid de udder animals to graze fer a livin', or be put in de 'sylum, a place to keep fools in. I will say rite here dat I am glad all de fools ain't been taken up yit, fer it would thin out my congregation to a handfull.

"Now, I am gwine ter wind up dis discourse. I hope you all has sense

ernuff to ketch all de main pints in it, an' den live by um, fur tain't what er man hears dat saves him, but what he does. Dat's er big pint; ef you don't get nuthin' else out of dis ramblin' talk, take dat home wid yer.

"We will expense wid singin', fer wen you gets dem half edercated idiots, with pencil behin' da years started, de devil can't choke um off. I am gwine to pay my expects to sum mo dangerous doctings in de soon future. Er watch dog on the tower uv Zion is expected to bark when he sees de devil comin' down de pike. I will let you sing jes one verse uv

"Amazin' grace, how sweet de soun' Dat saved a son of a gun like me; I wunce wuz lost, but now is foun' An' am jest as glad as I can be.

"Belo we close I am 'quested to say Brudder Zeke Jones haz lost er spotted puppy. Ennybody findin' sich er pup will do er favor to his neighbors, by nockin' him in de head, az I understand he sucks aigs an' ain't wurth er durn nohow."

ELI PERKINS.

Come to The Messenger office when you want anything printed. We now have the shop in pretty good shape for handling your work. Besides straightening out the shop, we have added some of the newest type faces and can assure you good work which is right up to the time.

IF YOU NEED ANY-
THING IN THE

Furniture Line

CALL ON

R. W. CHANDLER & CO.

OKOLONA, MISS.

UNDERTAKERS SUPPLIES



WHEN YOU SELECT

jewelry you can take your choice without fear of misplaced confidence or poor judgement if you buy from us. We carry good, reliable, genuine jewelry. We guarantee whatever we sell to be as represented. We stand back of everything that leaves our store.

C. B. JOHNSON

JEWELER

OKOLONA, MISS.

Reliable Telephone Service

When you have the Telephone Service of the Cumberland Telephone & Telegraph Company you have reliable and comprehensive service. You are connected with every important point in the United States by means of our long distance lines. You can locate a person anywhere. Local service the best. Call our Manager for full information regarding rates, etc.

Cumberland Telephone & Telegraph Company.